



Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development

OKLAHOMA WORKFORCE YOUTH COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Date: December 11, 2015

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City, 900 N. Portland Ave., Oklahoma City, OK

Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions

Co-chairs Chuck Mills and Cecilia Robinson-Woods welcomed the group and thanked everyone for attending. Chuck asked everyone to self-introduce themselves as there were several new members.

New members included:

- Debra Andersen, Smart Start
- Curtis Calvin, OETA
- Bryan Clark, Student
- Domonique Bruner, Student
- Nathan Tatum, Student

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Karen Davidson to approve the August 21, 2015 minutes. A second was made by Nanette Robertson and the motion carried unanimously.

Council Update and Discussion

Chuck said the Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development met on November 6. The Council is newly reconstituted under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is in compliance with the new law. The old law was called the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998. The Council voted to approve several new workforce policies for the state that were initially approved by the Council in June 2015 under WIA. This was done to ensure compliance under WIOA. Some of the highlights of the new Act are:

- State and local boards are to be business-driven
- Consolidation of workforce areas
- Streamline costs
- Focus on out-of-school youth – 75% of funds
- PK-12 – 25% of funds

Chuck said that the Youth Council is focusing on the PK-12 group to help them stay in school and focus on obtaining skills for future employment. There are 88,000 job openings in Oklahoma but we still lack the skills needed to fill them.

The short-term solution is to try to find those people who have dropped out of school or don't have the skills and help them get the skills needed to find employment.

Chuck said the long-term solution is where the Youth Council fits in. The Youth Council can help in building that pipeline and start filling it earlier for kids so they can understand what it is that they can achieve in training for future jobs and be successful and also fill the needs of employers.

The Governor's Council now has more employers on the Council who represent the five ecosystems of the state. These are in-demand jobs that we need to focus on. The five ecosystems are:

- Aerospace & Defense
- Energy
- Agriculture & Biosciences
- Information & Financial Services
- Transportation & Distribution

Healthcare, construction and manufacturing complement the ecosystems. We need to try to embed them all into curriculum and career pathways and direct students down those pathways.

Chuck said that one of the committees of the Governor's Council will primarily focus on out-of-school youth (age 16-24) in support of WIOA. As for the Youth Council, we will focus mainly on PK-middle school, although we may do some things for high school students.

Steve Crank added that he received some information from Lynn Gray, OESC Research Dept., on youth workforce engagement. One item of interest is the large drop in Oklahoma's labor force participation rate among teens. Between 1999 and 2014 the rate fell by 20 points. In 1999, 49.6 teenagers between 16-19 are employed – currently that number is 29.7. However we are not seeing any real increase in our school enrollment rate among teens either, at least since 2007. Sadly, many aren't working or are in school.

Chuck said that this shows the urgency of what we are doing and it is one reason why the WIOA has mandated career pathways not just for youths but also for adults. He added that for those who will be serving on the committees, if you have more of an interest in the younger early childhood-middle school group or the older 16-24 out-of-school youth, you can choose what interests you the most.

KEN Meetings Update

Chuck gave an update on the KEN meetings around the state. He is a champion for the East Central area. He said they had 150 people at their KEN meeting. Gov. Fallin was there (she attended all of the KEN meetings) as well as about 10 school superintendents (from rural areas as well as Shawnee), higher ed, Career Tech, community colleges, faith-based education, a lot of business people and agency people.

A common theme throughout all nine of the KEN meetings was businesses need technical skills (such as STEM) and employability skills (soft skills). He said that a report given to him by Supt. Joy Hofmeister had an employability piece in it that came from BusinessRoundtable.org web site. It showed that there were more things needed than just showing up on time for work. It went into communication, collaboration, working with other people, critical thinking, and problem solving. Chuck says with the model we have in education, we don't really work a lot with collaboration. As a manufacturer, he might have a customer call him with a special or customized order so he might talk to his engineer, but there are other people too that need to be part of that collaborative solution. So he pulls them all together and they may come up with an idea of what they can make and if it's something the customer can afford. That's how things

happen but in school when you try to collaborate or talk to other people, that's cheating. Sometimes you can learn more from your peers.

Cecilia Woods-Robinson said that there needs to be a paradigm shift in education where they value the early childhood pieces that teach children to work together so that as they progress in school then most of their learning comes from a peer. The information comes from a teacher, but the connect comes from a peer. Part of the problem why they don't have a lot of time in the classroom to work together is because of the 3rd grade Reading Act. They have to spend time making sure the students are able to read and pass so now pre-school and kindergarten have become like 1st grade now. Also businesses told us that we didn't have smart enough kids (Chuck said rather they are not employable – not dumb) so we have to teach the kids to do things at younger ages. It was a huge shift for her teachers when she wanted the kids to sit at round tables because they thought they would talk. That was the point so the teachers could teach them how to work together. Now several grades are having class at round tables. So when business and industry told us that kids don't know how to work together, we responded. We try to respond to what they are asking for but it doesn't happen overnight.

In talking about supporting jobs in the ecosystem, Cecilia said in her experience in an urban school and an underserved area, students are going to learn about careers that they are familiar with. They have no idea what a Bio/Ag job is or some of the other STEM areas. Nanette Robertson asked her as workforce development areas, how can we provide students with the information they need for careers in STEM or the ecosystems?

Cecilia said it goes along with what the Youth Council talked about at their last meeting about CA squared - Career Awareness and Alignment. She said first its exposure, then it is career or study alignment then the last piece would be tours of industry and business. This should be started in 6th grade. Nanette said that she and her board chair have been talking about setting up some industry tours. Vikki said that she was aware of some places in Oklahoma City that could be toured.

Cecilia asked regarding 16-24 year olds, how does the state coordinate its dropout report? She said that they have a list of kids that identify that left their school but hasn't been picked up somewhere. She also found out this week that if a child goes into incarceration, the jail isn't required to pick up their schooling unless the child requests it.

Jeff Downs said that he is working with a group in Colorado (a STEM focused school) and it's called STEM Launch. The director there gets what we are talking about. Two or three times a month she is inviting business partners to come in and hold workshops. It is a 2-hour event in the evenings where teachers can get together and students are welcome. They will have a 15-20 minute introduction into a business then they will have some kind of relevant activity the business conducts. This helps educate teachers and students (and parents) on different business sectors such as Bio/Ag and what they do. This has been very successful and well attended. Another thing that she is doing is once or twice a month she is pulling all of her teachers together and they are all going through mini workshops on how to teach collaboratively – how to teach kids to be collaborative thinkers, to get them out of their desks and at tables. This has been from Kindergarten all the way up to the 8th grade. There are now no desks in the school.

For career exploration, Cecilia said that there should be some type of framework available for businesses to work with schools. There needs to be a database for businesses across the state. Chuck says there is a business portal where a business can sign up who is willing to come and talk to classes. All businesses are vetted first before their name goes on the list.

Career Tech has set theirs up but the State Dept. of Education is taking a while to do theirs. Chuck said that you need to go through the school superintendent first to get permission for them to come, then go to businesses and talk to them. He talked with Don Raleigh, Superintendent of Pryor schools, to see how they do theirs. Their first hour class is ACT prep and industry awareness. For the industry awareness, they have a business rep come in and talk about their business, what kind of education is required, salary, training, etc. so students can determine if it is something they might be interested in.

Chuck wants to set up some committees to start working on an action plan for the Youth Council. Career access and awareness is where it all starts.

It was decided to have two committees: Access and Awareness

Those who volunteered to be on the committees are as follows:

<u>ACCESS COMMITTEE</u>	<u>AWARENESS COMMITTEE</u>
Chuck Mills	Chuck Mills
Cecilia Woods	Cecilia Woods
Steve Crank	Jeff Downs
Nannette Robinson	Debbie Andersen
Kerry Manning	Jackie Pearson
Scott Fry - either committee	Scott Fry - either committee
Greg Hall - either committee	Greg Hall - either committee
Mark Kinnison - either committee	Mark Kinnison - either committee
	Karen Davidson

Vikki Dearing volunteered to set up some tours of businesses for the Youth Council to go on. Chuck thought that would be a good idea. It was also suggested to have Youth Council members make presentations every once in a while at the meetings to help everyone understand what the different members do or represent.

Meeting Date for 2016

A motion was made by Jeff Downs to approve the 2016 Calendar of Meetings for the Youth Council, a second was made by Kelly Arrington, the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

None.

Old Business

None.

Other

- EduFactor grant – Vikki Dearing/Scott Fry – Inspire Grant Program – scholarships. Career exploration, projects, explore technology, etc. Vikki will send something out on it.
- Think Through Math – Jeff Downs – Oklahoma Public Schools Resource Center is a new center primarily funded by the Walton Foundation, Shusterman's, and the Kaiser Foundation. They put together a plan of what they are calling their "goal buckets" and one of their goal buckets is STEM. Inside of that goal bucket they are going to have three programs that they are going to be working with and promoting. One of them is the National Science and Math Initiative (AP Calc, AP Trig and different science

courses), another is Project Lead the Way, and Think Through Math is going to be the third one. They have set up a Catalyst Educational Fund. The model is set up where businesses can contribute and be able to get tax breaks as an incentive.

Next Meeting

The next Youth Council meeting will be on January 8, 2016.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:09 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Linda Emrich*